

# House File 711 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY WESSEL=KROESCHELL, LENSING,  
WINCKLER, and HUNTER

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating a mental health services and policy division in  
2 the department of public health.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
4 TLSB 2040YH 82  
5 jp/je/5

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1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 135.153 DIVISION OF MENTAL  
1 2 HEALTH SERVICES AND POLICY == LEGISLATIVE INTENT.  
1 3 1. "Mental health services" means the treatment,  
1 4 assessment, or counseling of another person for a cognitive,  
1 5 behavioral, emotional, mental, or social dysfunction,  
1 6 including an intrapersonal or interpersonal dysfunction and  
1 7 includes but is not limited to such services provided by a  
1 8 mental health professional, as defined in section 228.1.  
1 9 2. Effective July 1, 2008, the division of mental health  
1 10 services and policy is created in the department. The  
1 11 division shall either directly administer or coordinate the  
1 12 mental health services provided in this state for all age  
1 13 groups and shall coordinate policy for the state and local  
1 14 public agencies that provide mental health services.  
1 15 3. It is the intent of the general assembly either to make  
1 16 the division responsible for coordinating the services  
1 17 administered by the departments and agencies listed in this  
1 18 subsection or to transfer to the division responsibility for  
1 19 the direct administration of the services by July 1, 2008.  
1 20 The mental health services administered by all of the  
1 21 following state departments and agencies shall be considered  
1 22 for transfer:  
1 23 a. Adult, children, and family mental health services,  
1 24 including but not limited to those provided by or under a  
1 25 state mental health institute, the sexually violent predator  
1 26 program, federal grants, the mental health portion of the  
1 27 functions of the division of mental health and disabilities  
1 28 services, and the medical assistance program, and  
1 29 responsibility for the functions involving provider  
1 30 regulation, policy and planning, and county-administered  
1 31 mental health services that are under the department of human  
1 32 services.  
1 33 b. Child and family mental health services administered by  
1 34 juvenile court services.  
1 35 c. Child and mental health services provided by schools  
2 1 and area education agencies.  
2 2 d. Offender mental health services administered by the  
2 3 department of corrections.  
2 4 e. Mental health services policy support and educational  
2 5 activities provided by the institutions under the state board  
2 6 of regents.  
2 7 f. Mental health services administered by the department  
2 8 of veterans affairs.  
2 9 Sec. 2. MENTAL HEALTH INTERIM STUDY.  
2 10 1. The legislative council is requested to establish a  
2 11 study committee for the 2007 interim to develop a plan for  
2 12 implementing the division of mental health services in the  
2 13 department of public health effective July 1, 2008, as  
2 14 provided in Code section 135.153, as enacted by this Act.  
2 15 2. The study committee shall consult with all of the  
2 16 following in formulating the plan:  
2 17 a. State agency administrators from the agencies addressed  
2 18 in Code section 135.153, as enacted by this Act.  
2 19 b. Representatives of mental health service providers,

2 20 including but not limited to community and institutional  
2 21 providers, state and county programs, and psychiatrists and  
2 22 other mental health professionals.  
2 23 c. Consumers of mental health services and consumer  
2 24 advocates.  
2 25 3. If established, the study committee should be directed  
2 26 to report with findings, recommendations, and a detailed plan  
2 27 for consideration by the governor and general assembly in the  
2 28 2008 regular session of the general assembly.

2 29 EXPLANATION

2 30 This bill creates a mental health services and policy  
2 31 division in the department of public health effective July 1,  
2 32 2008. The term "mental health services" is defined. The  
2 33 purpose of the division is to either directly administer or  
2 34 coordinate the mental health services provided in this state  
2 35 for all age groups and to coordinate policy for the state and  
3 1 local public agencies that provide mental health services.

3 2 The bill includes a list of services administered by  
3 3 various agencies that are required to be considered for  
3 4 transfer to the division.

3 5 The bill requests the legislative council to create a study  
3 6 committee for the 2007 legislative interim to develop a plan  
3 7 for the division and for transfer of functions. The study  
3 8 committee is required to consult with various interests and to  
3 9 report with findings, recommendations, and a plan for  
3 10 consideration by the governor and general assembly in the 2008  
3 11 legislative session.

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